

**Amendments to the Claims:**Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. Cancelled.
3. Cancelled.
4. Cancelled.
5. Cancelled.
6. Cancelled.
7. Cancelled.
8. Cancelled.
9. Cancelled.
10. Cancelled.
11. Cancelled.
12. Cancelled.
13. Cancelled.
14. Cancelled.

15. (New) An apparatus for treating a waste gas containing a combustible compound comprising:

a catalytic oxidation reactor for treating the waste gas by combustion.

a device for supplying the waste gas to the reactor,

at least a first pre-heater device and a second pre-heater device for heating the waste gas prior to its entry into the reactor;

a heat-recovery device for recovering heat from treated gas emanating from the reactor;

and

a molecular oxygen-containing gas supplying device for supplying molecular oxygen-containing gas to a waste gas inlet of the first pre-heater device and to at least one region of the apparatus between a waste gas outlet of the first pre-heater device and an inlet of the reactor wherein the apparatus being adapted to allow the treated gas emanating from the reactor to be supplied to the second pre-heater device and to the heat-recovery device as a heat source and to

allow treated gas emanating from the second pre-heater device to be supplied to the first pre-heater device as a heat source.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the molecular oxygen-containing gas supplying device is connected to the waste gas inlet of the first pre-heater device, and further is connected to:

- a) a region of the apparatus between the waste gas outlet of the first pre-heater device and the waste gas inlet of the second pre-heater device; and/or
- b) a region of the apparatus between the waste gas outlet of the second pre-heater device and the inlet of the reactor.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus is adapted to allow treated gas emanating from the second pre-heater device to be supplied to the first pre-heater device as a heat source without being passed through the heat-recovery device.

18. (New) The apparatus according claim 15 wherein the molecular oxygen-containing gas supplying device receives a signal from an oxygen concentration detector disposed in a pipe on a treated gas outlet side of the first pre-heater.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the molecular oxygen-containing gas supply is a device furnished with a driving part capable of being driven at various revolutions.